

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

*United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt*

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - March 4, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Michael Berton Laughead pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego to an Information charging him with one count of possession of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B). Laughead entered his guilty plea before Magistrate Judge Barbara L. Major, subject to final acceptance of the plea by United States District Court Judge M. James Lorenz, at the time of sentencing.

According to court documents, Laughead admitted that on or about June 5, 2007, he possessed at least thirteen videos on his computer that contained images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults.

Sentencing for Laughead is scheduled for May 19, 2008 at 8:30 a.m., before Judge Lorenz.

This case stems from an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who is a member of the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, other members include the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the San Diego Police Department, the San Diego Sheriff's Department, the San Diego

District Attorney's Office, the United States Marshals Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Chula Vista Police Department, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide Department of Justice initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 08CR0451-L

MICHAEL BERTON LAUGHEAD

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section and 2252(a)(4)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)
Maximum Penalty: 10 years' incarceration, \$250,000 fine, a minimum of 5 years and up to a lifetime of supervised release, and registration as a sex offender.

AGENCY

Federal Bureau of Investigation